MR. K. C KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): When did the Government come to know of the enhancement of duty in Australia?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Chamber of Commerce wrote to Government about it in their letter dated the 7th January 1935.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): When did the Government represent the matter to the Government of India?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They wrote to the Agent to the Governor-General on the 8th February 1935.

Duty on Ginger imported into Australia.

244. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the Australian Government levies a duty on Indian ginger imported into Australia, and, if so, what action they have taken to remedy the situation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The Government of India have been addressed on the matter and it is to be hoped that they will consider the matter, if and when negotiations are undertaken for the conclusion of a trade agreement with Australia.

Duty on Coir mats and matting imported into New Zealand.

245. * MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the imposition of a duty on coir mats and matting imported into New Zealand; and, if so, the action they have taken to remedy the situation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The Government of India were addressed with a view to have the duty levied *ad valorem* altered into a specific duty based on the quantity of the coir mats and matting. They have replied to say that the question of duty on coir mats and mattings imported into New Zealand from Travancore will be considered in connection with the negotiations for a trade agreement with New Zealand which they hope to resume in the near future.

Convenience in Alleppey for Passengers by Sea.

246. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of passenger steamers touching Alleppey;

(*b*) what convenience the passengers on board have, if they alight at Alleppey and

(*c*) whether they considered the question of affording facilities to passengers when they alight at Alleppey for sight-seeing or otherwise?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Steamers with passenger accommodation bound for foreign Ports occasionally touch Alleppey for shipping and landing cargo.

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(*b*) All possible conveniences for the safe landing and embarking of passengers by means of accommodation ladder at the Pier are afforded by the Port authorities. Steamer agents concerned provide mail boats as means of transport.

(*c*) Government have not considered the question.

Rubber Quota.

247. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether any reply has been received from the Government of India to the Travancore Government's representations for increased basic quotas under the Rubber Restriction Ordinance ;

(*b*) how long the negotiations for the increased quota for South India have been going on ; and

(*c*) when they expect that a settlement of the claims of South India for increased quotas will be reached ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No final reply has been received.

(*b*) For the past eight months.

(*c*) It is not possible to say.

Sea-going Lighters in Alleppey.

248. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of sea-going lighters available for shipping and landing cargo at the port of Alleppey ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Twenty-five.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : May I know the number of sea-going lighters in 1929 ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : I have not got the information now before me. But I have the figures for the last three years.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Are the Government aware that a couple of days ago four lighters went down near Alleppey?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : I remember to have read something about it in some newspaper.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Do not the Government think that the provision of a tug at Alleppey will facilitate the safe working of these lighters ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Will the Government therefore be pleased to provide a tug at Alleppey soon ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Sir, the matter formed the subject of an adjournment motion in this House just a few days ago.

PRESIDENT : And it was dealt with exhaustively.

Provision of a Tug at the Alleppey Port.

249. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Will the Government he pleased to state whether they have sanctioned a tug to facilitate landing and shipping of cargo in Alleppey and, if so, when the supply of a tug may be expected ?

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